

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, June 6, 2021

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 35. Love Your Enemies – Matthew 5:43-48

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: “Righteousness, the one word that sums up Christian living.” (MLJ) In Matthew 5:21-48, Jesus uses 6 illustrations that demonstrate common principles in the midst of particular commandments that prove that He did not come to give a new law, but new life! Jesus here is saying, “THIS is what I gave Moses.” The final contrast between the Pharisees’ false interpretation of the law involves the command to love our enemies.

- I. The Law Narrowed – vs. 43
 - A. Hate Your Enemies
 1. Love your neighbor – Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:39; Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:14
 2. Who is your neighbor?
 - a. Rabbinical teaching was that all aliens were enemies, not neighbors
 - b. It was the right and duty of any Israelite to hate non-neighbors
 - c. The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37
 - d. The Wall of Separation – Eph. 2:14, 19-22
 - B. But Aren’t We to Hate Those Who Hate God? – Psa. 26:5; 31:6; 97:10; 119:104, 113, 128; Psa. 139:21-22 (see vs. 19, and then 23-24)
 1. Judicial vs. individual (God vs. us)
 2. God is love – God judges the wicked – there is no contradiction – Quote #1
 - C. Can You Love Those You Hate?
- II. The Law Applied – vs. 44-47
 - A. Love Your Enemies (vs. 44) – Quote #2
 1. Bless Those Who Curse You – reply to bitter words with kind words – Prov. 15:1
 2. Do Good to Those Who Hate You – benevolence in the face of spite – Rom. 12:17, 21
 3. Pray for Those Who Persecute You – their actions prove their doom, pray for salvation! – Rom. 2:4
 - B. Be Sons of Your Father (vs. 45)
 1. God’s Love – Quote #3 – Rom. 5:7-10
 - a. We are helpless and unable to love God
 - b. We cannot hear – John 8:43
 - c. We cannot receive – John 14:16-17
 - d. We cannot decide to submit – Rom. 8:7
 - e. We cannot accept or understand – 1 Cor. 2:14
 - f. We cannot cease from sin – 2 Peter 2:14
 - g. Quote #4
 2. Love as God Loves – Eph. 5:1-2 (sons, dear children) – Quote #5
 3. Ultimately, God’s Love = the Cross – John 3:16; Gal. 2:20; 1 John 4:10
 - C. More than Others (vs. 46-47) – John 10:7-10
- III. The Law Obeyed – vs. 48 – Perfecting the Saints – Eph. 4:11-16
 - A. Equipped for Service
 - B. Edifying the Body
 - C. Educated in the Knowledge of Christ
 1. Stature of Christ - to a perfect man
 2. Stable in our faith
 3. Speaking the truth in love
 4. Sharing in growth
 - D. Edifying each other in love

Quotes

1. “God does cause His sun to rise on the evil and on the good. He blesses people who hate Him, and He does send rain upon those who defy Him. But at the same time He announces to them, that unless they repent, they will finally be judged.” – MLJ
2. “Persist in loving, even if men persist in enmity.” – CHS
3. “Agape – love that exists entirely apart from the possibility of being loved back.” – JMB
4. “God’s love is measured by the fact that while we were sinners and were unable to hear His Word, receive His Spirit, submit to His law, understand His teaching, or cease from sin – Christ died for us. That is God’s love.” – JMB
5. “We do not cease to hate, and then abide in cold neutrality; but we love when hatred seems inevitable. Indeed, he is a child of God who can bless the unthankful and the evil: for in daily providence the Lord is doing this on a great scale, and none but His children will imitate Him.” – CHS

Cross References

Leviticus 19:18

18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Matthew 22:39

39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Romans 13:8-10

8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Galatians 5:14

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Luke 10:25-37

25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" 27 So he answered and said, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" 28 And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." 29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'" 36 So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" 37 And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Ephesians 2:14

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

Ephesians 2:19-22

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,

Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Psalm 26:5

5 I have hated the assembly of evildoers, And will not sit with the wicked.

Psalm 31:6

6 I have hated those who regard useless idols; But I trust in the Lord.

Psalm 97:10

10 You who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.

Psalm 119:104

104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.

Psalm 119:113

113 I hate the double-minded, But I love Your law.

Psalm 119:128

128 Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way.

Psalm 139:21-22

21 Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? 22 I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

Psalm 139:19

19 Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men.

Psalm 139:23-24

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

Proverbs 15:1

15 A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Romans 12:17

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

Romans 12:21

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 2:4

4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Romans 5:7-10

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

John 8:43

43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

John 14:16-17

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—
17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Romans 8:7

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

1 Corinthians 2:14

14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

2 Peter 2:14

14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.

Ephesians 5:1-2

5 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

1 John 4:10

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

John 10:7-10

7 Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

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